

Wm. Wilkern

Bertha.

Strasbourg Va,

Dec: 6. 1881,

Dec 8/81,

About the exhibition
of a picture in the
Gallery

v

Recd & Ack'd
Dec. 8/81

2301

Strasburg - Va.
Dec. 6th 1881

Wm Maederel, Esq
Dear Sir

Yours of Dec 1st rec'd, but without the "Regulations" which you proposed to send for me to sign and return; will you kindly forward the same, and if no mention is made as to whether a picture can be withdrawn at any time, will you inform me what rules there are with regard to when and how a picture can be withdrawn after exhibition. All other Galleries to which I have loaned pictures, have insisted

upon paying the freight to and from
even so far as from Strasburg to
Boston, Phila. &c, but that is a
small matter and I am quite
willing to pay it myself, both
because I am particularly anxious
to have a picture in the Corcoran
Gallery, for my friends in Washington
to see, and because that Gallery
is the nearest to this place, where
I spend a great deal of time,
and consequently very useful to
me as a source of instruction from
the works of others. The three pictures
I sent to the Phila. Academy were
all accepted, therefore I must wait
until the close of that Exhibition
before forwarding one, unless I send
one from New York or Boston. Shall
I forward the picture to you, (when
ready) without further notice?

Resply Bertha von Hillmer
per M. J. C. B.

Keyser.
S.

Balt. Dec 8:8/81

Dec 7.9./81,
7.9/81,

Sends photos of Psyche.
Encloses extract from a
Balt Paper, about his
brother.

✓

Recd. Dec. 9.
Dec. 9.

2302

Balt^o Dec 8/81

Mr. Wm. Leod.

Dear Sir.

In response to yours of 7th
I herewith enclose extract from a
Balt^o Paper - giving a detailed no-
tices of Mr. Keyser's career & works -
all of which is a correct report
of an interview with him when
here. You would much oblige
me - by advising me of anything of
interest transpiring relative to the
exhibition of "Psyche" at your Gal-
lery. Has Mr. Corcoran seen it?
Is Mr. Wm. J. Watter^s of Balt^o
yet on the board of Trustees? If you
have any suggestions or advise to offer
referring to a sale of the work - same will
be thankfully appreciated.

Mr Keyser - was not a pupil of
Pinchart. He never met that eminent
sculptor. Are you acquainted with
Mr Barlow - who has a gallery
on Penna Ave. Washington? If
so do you think he could be
of any service in promoting a
sale?

With regards.

Yours Truly

S. Keyser
101 W Fayette St

KEYSER, THE SCULPTOR.

2302

HIS PROMISING CAREER AND WORKS.

A TALK with the Artist at Home—The "Toying Page" and Other Works—His Probable Permanent Residence in Baltimore—Sketch of His Life.

Mr. Ephraim Keyser, the rising Baltimore sculptor, returned from Italy a few days since, and has established his studio at 74 West Fayette street. As the young artist has met with a gratifying degree of success and gives promise of arriving at still greater distinction, a brief sketch of his career is not out of place: Ephraim Keyser is the son of the venerable Moses Keyser, a much-respected citizen of Baltimore. He is now in his twenty-ninth year. In early life he developed a fondness for cutting figures from blocks, etc., and resolved to become a sculptor. His delicate organization led his friends to think that he could not handle the chisel successfully; nevertheless young Keyser clung to his resolve.

He entered the Baltimore City College and pursued the course of instruction there afforded, but was obliged to leave college on the eve of graduation, owing to the failure of his health. After leaving college he entered the School of Design. Here his ideas were enlarged, but ill-health still operated against him. At the age of twenty-two he went abroad and located in Munich, the paradise of artists. Here he placed himself under the instruction of Prof. Widermann. He remained at Munich four years, and while there executed and had cast his bronze figure, "The Toying Page." For this he received a silver medal.

Later he went to Berlin, and received instruction at the hands of Professor Albert Wolff. Here he conceived and executed his marble "Psyche," for which he received the Michaelbeer prize. The object of this prize was to enable the recipient to pursue his profession for a year at Rome. Here he put his "Psyche" in marble and also executed his bronze figure, the "Pet Falcon," incorrectly spoken of as the "Falconess." These figures are now in transit and will arrive in Baltimore ere long. Mr. Keyser will place them on exhibition here. Mr. Tiffany, of New York, wished to place them on exhibition there upon their arrival, but the artist wished to exhibit them at home first.

Malaria was very prevalent at Rome this season, so much so that Mr. Keyser's friends were alarmed for his safety. The artist braved the season through, however, being determined to complete his work during the year.

A BULLETIN reporter strolled into the artist's studio this morning and found him setting it to rights preparatory to entering upon his profession here. The artist chatted pleasantly upon matters of art and spoke of his plans for the future.

He purposes to execute busts of several of the prominent citizens of Baltimore, and otherwise to perfect himself in his art. His stay at home is uncertain. It may be short or long, according to the amount of work consigned to him. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable materials artists find it much more advantageous to finish their work abroad. There one can find just what he wants, and the work of painting the marble prior to the final touches of the artist is done so well that the sculptor is largely relieved.

Just at present, Mr. Keyser states, art is in a transition stage. Many cling to the classical school with its conventionalities and peculiarities. Others follow the realistic school, and between the extremes an endless variety of tastes and ideas are to be found. Some aim to follow in the footsteps of the old masters, but the best of them may be said to do well if they reach splendid mediocrity. Others strive to outdo the extremists of the realistic school, but they err as much in revealing what should be held back or reproducing that which should be avoided as those who aim after the extreme of simplicity that can never be realized.

The true artist aims to copy nature, and while he may disregard the mere conventionalities he must never offend the canons of good taste. While one may admire a particular school and learn to distinguish its merits, he can hardly hope to rival the masters in that school. While one may admire the old Greek tragedies and the noble dramas of Shakspeare, it is folly to expect at the hands of modern playwrights a "Prometheus Vincit" or a "Macbeth." Art changes. Occasionally a genius arises, who creates, as it were, a peculiar school, but it is generally the case that the times have been ripe for the change. Revolutions never come unawares.

Art is in art to-day. The realistic school has been gaining in favor, but it is as yet far from being fixed. Great artists there are who are leaving their impress on the age, but this is an era of preparation, and the general aim seems to be to select the best from the theories, ideas, details and performances of the workers. A good work is a good work no matter in what school it may be classed, and he is a true artist who finds the truly beautiful in nature and reproduces it as nearly as possible.

Mr. Keyser follows no particular school. He aims to preserve the happy means, and is satisfied to follow nature, and is happy if he can copy in what he undertakes.

He was on terms of intimacy abroad with many of the rising young Americans who frequent the foreign schools, and has a large fund of anecdote illustrative of life within the pale of art.

Being of Americans as patrons of art, he has secured nearly one-half of the works he has bought by American patrons.

Balto 12/5/87

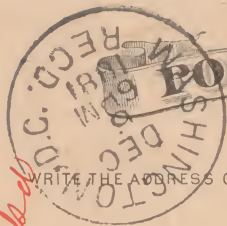
2802

Dear Sir

I sent with this mail 5 photographs
of "Psyche" which kindly distribute to the
Trustees of the Gallery - with my com-
-pliments - & oblige

Yours truly
J. Key Ser

To Wm. Macleod. Esq
Washington
D.C.



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

Recd. H. A. C. 11

Dec. 7/11

*Wm. MacLeod. Esq.
Curator
"Corcoran Art Gallery
Washington
D.C.*

Balto 12/5/87

2302

Dear Sir

I sent with this mail 5 photographs
of "Psyche" which kindly distribute to the
Trustees of the Gallery - with my com-
-pliments - & oblige

Yours Truly
J. Key Ser

To Wm. Mackay. Esq
Washington
D.C.

Census Offici.

2303,

Dec 10. 1881,

Ackj recpr of
Statistics of the Gallery,

Department of the Interior,

CENSUS OFFICE.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Any person using this card to avoid the payment
of postage on private matter of any kind
will be subject to a fine of three
hundred dollars.

81

Mr Mac Leod Esq
Curran Gallery of Art
Washington
D.C.

Washington, D. C., Dec 10, 1881.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of
today, in answer to my request
for statistics of Corcoran Gallery
of Art.
and desire to express my cordial thanks for the same.

Yours truly,

HENRY RANDALL WAITE,

Special Agent.

Thompson

2304

Mo. Co.

Ionia

Ionia Co. Mich

Dec 9. 1881,

Dec ¹⁵15/81,

Will send for her
pictures after the
holidays.

✓

Dec 15/87

Miss Anna C
Minn

Dec 1/87

My Mother

Dear Sir

I am sorry
 as I am unable to go so
 soon with my family
 I expected to see it taken
 in the lower gallery in
 the afternoon. You have been so kind
 to keep it so long - and all the
 one I am so glad for all.
 I will come on the next
 afternoon and will have it
 taken to me and to the children.

Let it stand for the Harrington
in connection.

Henry Jones

Charles E. Thompson

2305,

Bissell,
John D.

Detroit Mich.

Dec. 9. 1881

Dec 15/81

For photo of the
Vestee.

✓

LAW OFFICES OF
SIDNEY D. MILLER, JOHN H. BISSELL,
FREDERICK T. SIBLEY.
ROOMS 2, 3 & 4 BANK CHAMBERS.
80 GRISWOLD STREET.

2305

Dec 15/81
DETROIT, MICH. Dec. 9th 1881

Dear Sir,

You may perhaps recall the writer as having been a pleased visitor at the Gallery with Judge Bates the first Saturday in Nov. when I purchased a copy of your largest photograph of "The Vestal Fucris". I came to the Gallery again on Sunday noon, with my aunt Miss Moulton.

The figure of the Vestal which I brought with me was greatly admired by all to whom it was shown. And now I want another. May I ask you to select the clearest photograph of the largest size - just the figure of that beautiful girl hold

ing up the sieve to salute the
Sun-God - pack it carefully and
send it by mail or express, just
as you think safest to my ad-
dress as above. I hand you
\$2.50 if this is not enough for
the picture and packing & postage.
please let me know and I will
supply the deficiency. I want
the picture to frame & send as
a Christmas present, and so will
ask your early attention.

Yours very truly

Abraham B. Bissell

To the
Curator of the
Corcoran Art Gallery,
Washington -
D.C.

Tom Donnanth.

2306

G. L.

Lancaster Pa,

Dec 14, 1881,
20

Dec 15, 22
15.23/81

For photo of Corday.

✓

G. L. Fensmith,
Bookseller & Stationer,
31 EAST KING STREET,
LANCASTER, - - PA.

2306
Dec 14 " 1811
Pinto

Please forward by return
mail: 1 Copy Photo

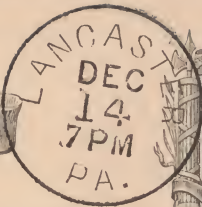
"Charlotte Corday"

Send Bill

Enclosed & I will remit

Yours Resp

G. L. Fensmith



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE—THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

"Lochran Art Gallery"
Washington
D. C.

G. L. Fon Dersmith,
Bookseller & Stationer,
11 EAST KING STREET,
LANCASTER, . . PA.



Lanc^r Pa

Dec 20, 1881

Fruit "

Enclosed please
find Eighty two cents
in post stamps - for
which forward the Photo
of "Corday"

Yours Very

G. L. Fon Dersmith
" "

Pease B. A.

2307

Bonnie Bluffs
Iowa.

Dec 10. 1881.

Dec 13/81,

\$1 for photo of Corday.

✓

U. S. Improvement of the Missouri River.

OFFICE OF

CHAS. S. PEASE,

U. S. ASSISTANT ENGINEER.



Council Bluffs, Iowa, Dec. 10" 1881

To the Director

Corcoran Hall

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith \$1.00 for stamp and request that you send me at your earliest convenience a photograph of the "Charlotte Corday".

Yours truly

Chas. S. Pease.

Watkinson J. D.

2308.

Phil^a Dec. 14/81.

Dec ¹⁵/₁₆/81.

Asks if the Gallery
is ready to receive his
painting.

✓

Miss M. Leoda

Dear Sir

Philadelphia Dec 14th 1881

2308

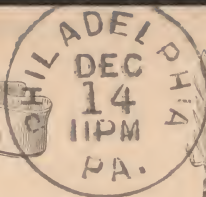
Are you ready to receive
Paintings?

Respectfully

J. S. Wilmar

Dec 15/81

233 Church St.



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.

*Corcoran Gallery of Art
- Washington
D.C.*

Healy J. P. A.

2309,

A. J. Dec 14/81

Dec 15/81

Asks to have his
pictures remain in the
gallery for a time.

✓

Dec 15/81

2309

New York Dec. 14th 1881.
Park Avenue Hotel.

My dear Mr. MacLeod,

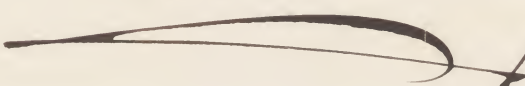
I feel greatly obliged
to ^{you} personally for your kindness.

I find I cannot finish
my engagements so soon as I
expected, perhaps not even before
the spring, therefore pray take
down my works, have them packed
and if the large case is not too much
in the way allow it to remain with you
until I write to you on the subject.

Thanking you again for
all your goodness to me and with
kindest regards to Mr. Corcoran.

I am, faithfully yours

Geo. P. Buckley



Woodward,

A. J.

Salem Wa:

Dec 23. 1881,

Dec 26/81,

Cash for 6 unmounted
photos of Corday.

✓

Recd Dec 24
Ack " 27

Salem, Va.

12/23-1881

Manager Lorroron Art Gallery
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find
money order a half dozen
11 x 16 unmounted prints
of Charlotte Corday.

Sent as early as possible.

Yours truly
R. F. Woodward,
Salem,
Roanoke Co.,
Va.